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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

Addendum*

* The present document is an addendum to the mimeographed version of the report of the Committee on Conferences. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/49/32/Rev.1).

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On 22 November 1994, the Committee on Conferences convened a resumed substantive session (378th meeting). The present addendum to the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/49/32) contains information on the work of the Committee at that session.

I. CONFERENCE SERVICES AT VIENNA

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After paragraph 32 insert the following paragraph:

At its 378th meeting, on 22 November 1994, the Committee considered a report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates for conference services at Vienna (A/C.5/49/24).

After paragraph 34 insert the following two paragraphs:

The Committee took note of the revised estimates for conference services at Vienna contained in document A/C.5/49/24.

In view of the need for the establishment of unified conference services at Vienna as soon as possible, expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/218, section I.C, of 23 December 1993, the Committee urged the Assembly to complete its consideration of the item by the end of 1994.

II. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON CONFERENCE SERVICES

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After paragraph 74 insert the following paragraph:

At its 378th meeting, on 22 November 1994, the Committee reviewed the finalized report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive study on conference services (A/C.5/49/34).

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After paragraph 85 insert the following four paragraphs:

Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding various aspects of the finalized study.

The view was expressed that emphasis should be placed, and further information provided, on such aspects of the study as demand forecasting, benchmarking, performance indicators, cost analysis and staff training.

In reply to a query concerning demand for services, the representative of the Secretariat noted the difficulty encountered in calculating real demand and that efforts were being made to address that problem.

In reply to a query concerning human resources requirements, the representative of the Secretariat noted that figures for such requirements had not been included in the study as 1994 was not a budget year.

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After paragraph 90 insert the following three paragraphs:

The Committee on Conferences supported the general orientation of the report on the comprehensive study on conference services contained in document A/C.5/49/34.

The Committee welcomed the efforts made by the Secretary-General to improve conference services and urged him to continue exploring the ways and means of providing conference services in a manner that fully responded to the needs of intergovernmental and expert bodies, while ensuring the criteria of quality and timeliness.

The Committee was of the view that the study was a basis for presenting proposals for the 1996-1997 budget. In making those proposals, account should be taken, inter alia, of the need for more transparent performance indicators, better cost information on meetings and documentation and a detailed analysis of real demand for conference services.